

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method[[,]] for tracking progress[[,]] by at least one worker, on a task over a period of time, the task including a plurality of subtasks, comprising:

- dividing the period of time into a plurality of timeslots;
- determining a target number of subtasks to be completed during each timeslot;
- tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by the at least one worker in each time slot;
- recording a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number associated with each time slot;
- recording an accumulated variance associated with each time slot; and,
- recording a total variance for the predetermined period of time.

Claim 2 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

Claim 3 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the period of time varies.

Claim 4 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of recording the total variance for the period of time is performed without reference to the workers.

Claim 5 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number in each time slot and the accumulated variance are temporarily recorded for the period of time.

Claim 6 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 5, wherein the total variance is recorded in a log.

Claim 7 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a total variance for a plurality of periods of time are recorded.

Claim 8 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the target number of subtasks to be completed during each time slot is modified as a function of the recorded total variances.

Claim 9 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the timeslots are illustrated on a writeable medium.

Claim 10 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the writeable medium includes locations for entry of the actual number of subtasks completed by each worker, the variance between the actual number and the target number, and the accumulated variance in each time slot.

Claim 11 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the writeable medium is erasable.

Claim 12 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the step of tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by each worker in each time slot is performed by the worker.

Claim 13 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the writeable medium is a chalkboard.

Claim 14 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the writeable medium is a white board.

Claim 15 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 9, wherein the writeable medium is a piece of paper.

Claim 16 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the total variance for the period of time is recorded on a writeable medium.

Claim 17 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the writeable medium is a spreadsheet stored on a computer.

Claim 18 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 16, wherein the writeable medium is a piece of paper.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the steps of:
~~providing a variance card to the at least one employee;~~
recording ~~on the variance card~~ a reason for a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number when the variance is a nonzero number; and,
recording the reason with the total variance.

Claim 20 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 19, wherein the total variance and the reason are recorded without reference to the worker.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 19, including providing a variance card to the at least one employee, wherein the variance card includes a plurality of predetermined reasons which may be checked off to record the reason for the variance.

Claim 22 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 21, wherein the variance card includes a comments section.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of planning a number of workers for at least a portion of the period of time based on ~~the a~~ number of tracks in a work flow based on the target number.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 23, including the step of reallocating a ~~worked~~ worker based on the planned number of workers.

Claim 25 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of providing diagnostics on the completion of the task.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method for tracking progress, by at least one worker, on a task over a period of time, the task including a plurality of sub-subtasks, comprising:

- dividing the period of time into a plurality of timeslots;
- determining a target number of subtasks to be completed during each timeslot;
- tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by the at least one worker associated with each time slot;
- recording a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number associated with each time slot;
- ~~recording an accumulated variance associated each time slot;~~
- recording a total variance for the period of time; and
- ~~providing a variance card to the at least one worker;~~
- recording a reason ~~on the variance card~~ for a the variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number when the variance is a nonzero number;
- ~~recording a total variance for the period of time and the reason for the variance; and,~~
- ~~modifying the target number of subtasks to be completed during at least one time slot as a function of the total variance and the reason.~~

Claim 27 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the period of time is predetermined.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 26, ~~wherein the period of time varies~~ including the step of recording an accumulated variance associated with each time slot.

Claim 29 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 26, ~~wherein~~ including the step of recording the total variance for the period of time ~~is performed without reference to the workers.~~

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim ~~[[26]]~~ 28, wherein the variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number in each time slot and the accumulated variance are temporarily recorded for the ~~predetermined~~ period of time.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim [[26]] 29, wherein the total variance is recorded in a permanent log.

Claim 32 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim [[26]] 28, wherein the timeslots are illustrated on a writeable medium.

Claim 33 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the writeable medium includes locations for entry of the actual number of subtasks completed by each worker, the variance between the actual number and the target number, and the accumulated variance in each time slot.

Claim 34 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the writeable medium is erasable.

Claim 35 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the step of tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by each worker in each time slot is performed by the worker.

Claim 36 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the writeable medium is a chalkboard.

Claim 37 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the writeable medium is a white board.

Claim 38 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 32, wherein the writeable medium is a piece of paper.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 26, including the step of recording a total variance for the period of time and the reason for the total variance, wherein the total variance for the predetermined period of time is recorded on a writeable medium.

Claim 40 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the writeable medium is a spreadsheet stored on a computer.

Claim 41 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 39, wherein the writeable medium is a piece of paper.

Claim 42 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim ~~[[26]]~~ 39, including the step of modifying the target number of subtasks to be completed during at least one time slot as a function of the total variance and the reason for the total variance ~~wherein the total variance and the reason are recorded without reference to the worker.~~

Claim 43 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 26, including recording the reason on a variance card, wherein the variance card includes a plurality of predetermined reasons which may be checked off.

Claim 44 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim ~~[[26]]~~ 43, wherein the variance card includes a comments section.

Claim 45 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 26, including the step of planning a number of workers for at least a portion of the period of time based on ~~the~~ a number of tracks in a work flow based on the target number.

Claim 46 (currently amended): A method, as set forth in claim 45, including the step of reallocating a ~~worked~~ worker based on the planned number of workers.

Claim 47 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 26, including the step of providing diagnostics on the completion of the task.

Claim 48 (previously presented): A method for tracking progress, by at least one worker, on a task over a predetermined period of time, the task including a plurality of sub-subtasks, comprising:

- dividing the period of time into a plurality of timeslots;
- determining a target number of subtasks to be completed during each timeslot;

tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by the at least one worker in each time slot;

temporarily recording a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number associated with each time slot;

temporarily recording an accumulated variance associated with each time slot;

providing a variance card to the at least one worker;

recording a reason on the variance card for a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number;

recording a total variance for the predetermined period of time and the reason for the variance in a log; and,

modifying the target number of subtasks to be completed during at least one time slot as a function of the total variance and the reason.

Claim 49 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 48, wherein the step of recording a total variance is performed without reference to the at least one worker.

Claim 50 (currently amended): A method[[,]] for tracking progress[[,]] by at least one worker, on a task over a period of time, the task including a plurality of subtasks, comprising;

dividing the period of time into a plurality of timeslots;

determining a target number of subtasks to be completed during each timeslot;

tracking an actual number of subtasks completed by the at least one worker in each time slot;

recording a variance between the actual number of subtasks completed and the target number associated with in each time slot;

recording an accumulated variance associated with [[in]] each time slot; and,

taking at least one action in response to the variance.

Claim 51 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 50, wherein said action includes the step of modifying at least one process in response to the variance.

Claim 52 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 26, wherein the step of recording a total variance is performed without reference to the at least one worker.

Claim 53 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 1, including the step of analyzing the variance.

Claim 54 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 53, including the step of taking an action associated with the variance in response to the analysis.

Claim 55 (original): A method, as set forth in claim 54, wherein the action includes changing at least one process associated with the task.